

Neomi Rao: D.C. Circuit Court Nominee

What's at Stake for Asian American and Pacific Islander Women and Girls



Neomi Rao has been nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit to fill the vacancy left by Brett Kavanaugh. Importantly, this seat is a lifetime appointment and, if confirmed, Rao could sit on the D.C. Circuit for decades to come. Rao is an extremely harmful candidate for women, communities of color, and LGBTQ people. She has previously made disparaging and inflammatory statements about our communities in her work as a journalist. Those opinions have carried over into harmful policies and decisions in her current work as the head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), a federal agency under

the President that reviews and implements government-wide policies.

The D.C. Circuit is a critical court for several reasons. It is informally referred to as "the second highest court in the United States," because it reviews many of the cases brought against the federal government. It is also a well-known feeder to the Supreme Court - four judges currently serving on the Supreme Court were previously DC Circuit judges. Rao is currently on President Trump's list of potential Supreme Court nominees, and some sources even say she is on his *short* list of nominees.

**Neomi Rao is not the fair judge we need.
Act now to oppose this extreme and dangerous nominee.**

AAPI Women's Bodies, Lives, and Families at Stake:



Racial Justice

During her time as a college student at Yale and the years since then, Rao has demonstrated hostility towards communities of color. She has denied the existence of racial oppression and referred to affirmative action as an "anointed dragon of liberal excess." Additionally, she described Yale's cultural centers and the recruitment of minority students as "special treatment for minority students." In her current work at OIRA, Rao has worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to roll back protections against housing discrimination based on race.



LGBTQ Rights

Rao has repeatedly opposed LGBTQ rights, including the ability of LGBTQ people to live free from discrimination. In her past writings, Rao described the fight for LGBTQ rights as "undermining American culture." In addition to other inflammatory and disparaging remarks, Rao has made policy decisions at OIRA that harm LGBTQ people. For instance, Rao finalized rules that allow medical providers to refuse to treat a patient if they have a "conscientious objection." This regulation will have detrimental effects on LGBTQ people seeking medical care and people seeking reproductive health care.



TAKE ACTION NOW

Call your senator at **202-224-3121** and tell them to vote “no” on D.C. Circuit nominee Neomi Rao. Tell them to stand up for the rights of Asian Americans, women, immigrants, people of color, workers, and LGBTQ people.



Workers’ Rights

Legal protections for workers, including policies that ensure fair and humane wages and working conditions, are vital to achieving economic justice for AAPI women and ensuring that they can support their children and families. AAPI women face a gender pay gap, with AAPI women in some ethnic groups earning as low as 45-55 cents to the white man’s dollar. AAPI women also make up a disproportionately high share of the low-wage workforce, and 11.7 percent of AAPI women live in poverty.

Rao has expressed harmful views about equitable treatment of women in the workplace in her past writings. At OIRA, Rao suspended a regulation that required companies to report pay by race and gender. The regulation was put in place during the Obama administration as a means to understand and address the gender pay gap. Rao’s suspension of this regulation reveals her lack of commitment to addressing gender discrimination in the workplace.



Sexual Violence

Rao has made numerous statements blaming women for being sexually assaulted. She has said that “a good way to avoid a potential date rape is to stay reasonably sober.” She has also said that if a woman “drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice.” These victim-blaming and victim-shaming statements show a complete disregard for the experiences of sexual assault survivors and a lack of commitment to holding perpetrators of sexual assault accountable for their actions.

At OIRA, Rao has been a key player in the rolling back of Title IX protections for students on campus, making it even more difficult for students and employees to bring sexual assault and sexual harassment claims. She has also blocked the issuance of sexual harassment guidance for employers and employees.

**AAPI women must fight Rao’s appointment.
We must stand up for our bodies, our families,
and our communities.**



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